

ABAG  
July/August 2007



# Service Matters

## ABAG-Founded Green Business Program Achieves a Decade of Environmental Progress

The climate change challenge to limit our carbon footprint has filled the newspapers, radio, television, and community action blogs with descriptions of innovative ideas and programs. To discover the impact of a program ahead of its time in helping businesses meet the climate change challenge, just Google “Green Business Program.” The first and foremost links that pop up point to the Bay Area Green Business Program, its local Green Business county programs, and the affiliated Monterey Bay Area and San Diego Green Business Programs that participate in this very successful network.



Recognized as a model throughout California and beyond, this same Green Business Program was developed at ABAG a decade ago with direction from the Hazardous Waste Management Facility Allocation Committee and funding from US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California EPA. This year the Program is celebrating three major milestones. 2007 marks the tenth anniversary of certifying green businesses and public agencies in the Bay Area, the certification of its 1,000th business, and the Program's availability in all nine counties.

Alameda and Napa Counties were the first to offer the Green Business Program in 1996 to businesses in the automotive repair sector. They certified the first Green Business in February 1997—Ed's Auto Clinic in Fremont. Subsequently Contra Costa, Sonoma, Santa Clara, Marin and San Francisco counties joined and, effective July 1st, all nine counties will be participating when Solano and San Mateo Counties launch their pilot Green Business Programs.

As one of the first to launch the Green Business Program, Alameda County celebrated the ten years at a special anniversary event, “*Environmental Values at Work through Business Certification*,” in April, where more than 35 newly certified Green Businesses were honored, along with the original ten Green Businesses certified (including the owner of Ed's Auto Clinic and Alonzo Printing Company in Hayward, the first printer certified in the Bay Area). Alameda County Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker lauded the Program and participating businesses for their significant environmental contributions. Sarah Andropoulos, staff to Congresswoman Barbara Lee, drew thunderous applause when she presented the Program with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition.

Reaching the milestone of 1,000 small and medium Bay Area Green Businesses highlights another trend— participation is accelerating. In each of the past three years, the number of businesses achieving green business status increased by 36 percent; for the last 12 months, the increase has approached 40 percent. Because the Green Business Program is a partnership of local, regional and state agencies and utilities that assist businesses and verify they meet the Program's higher standards of environmental performance, it offers a collaborative blueprint for more and more Bay Area businesses to meet the climate change challenge. Green Businesses are climate friendly: they help conserve energy and water, recycle, and reduce vehicle use – all activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This explains why so many Bay Area businesses and government agencies are demonstrating their *environmental values at work* and being certified “green.”

For more information or a directory of Green Businesses, contact Ceil Scandone at 510/464-7961, [ceil@abag.ca.gov](mailto:ceil@abag.ca.gov) or visit [www.greenbiz.ca.gov](http://www.greenbiz.ca.gov).



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## Nominate Priority Conservation Areas

**A**s part of the FOCUS initiative, nominations are now being accepted to designate priority conservation areas in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. Nominations should be for regionally significant areas that have broad community support and an urgent need for protection. These areas should contain lands important for protection through purchase or easement within the next few years. This nomination and designation process is important because knowing the region's near-term conservation priorities will help promote collaboration and investment in areas that are critical to the region's economy, quality of life, and ecological diversity. Local governments are encouraged to participate in this process and to collaborate with other entities on the nomination of areas. The deadline for submissions is Friday, August 17th, 2007.

**FOCUS Priority Conservation Area nomination guidelines and form are available online at**  
<http://www.bayareavision.org/focus/nominationprocess.html>



ABAG Staff Photo

### About FOCUS

FOCUS, short for Focusing Our Vision, is a regional planning initiative spearheaded by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in coordination with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). Staff is working with cities, counties, and other stakeholders to plan collaboratively where growth can be accommodated (priority development areas) and identify areas needing protection (priority conservation areas) within the next few years in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. For more information on FOCUS, visit [www.bayareavision.org/focus](http://www.bayareavision.org/focus) or call 510/464-7994.



ABAG Staff Photo

## Bay Area Alliance Website Provides Sustainability Tools for Local Governments

**O**verwhelmed, perhaps a bit confused by sustainability and climate change? Interested in reducing local government's impact on the environment and setting an example for local residents and businesses? A new one-stop guide for making one's community a leader in sustainability is now available on the web at [www.bayareaalliance.org/difference.html](http://www.bayareaalliance.org/difference.html)

The Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities has compiled links to resources that will show every department in a local government agency how to foster sustainability. The site focuses on learning how to maximize efficiency and cost-effectiveness by conserving energy and water, and to build and operate safe facilities

that produce a positive environmental and financial impact. For those who want more, the site also features the latest information about developing strategies for climate change planning, sustainable development, sustainable procurement, sustainable economic development, and sustainable housing solutions. The goal is to help local governments serve as a model for how individuals themselves can contribute to building more healthy, prosperous and equitable places to live. To learn more, visit the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities website [www.bayareaalliance.org](http://www.bayareaalliance.org).

*ABAG represents local government on the Bay Area Alliance Steering Committee. For additional information, contact Ceil Scandone, ABAG Senior Regional Planner, 510/464-7961 or [CeilS@abag.ca.gov](mailto:CeilS@abag.ca.gov).*

## New CCMP Plan is Roadmap for Protecting the San Francisco Estuary

**P**rotecting the Estuary requires complex interrelated activities from flood and drinking water quality protection, to habitat preservation and restoration, wastewater treatment and recycling, and more.

The San Francisco Estuary Project's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) provides a roadmap for how these activities can be carried out successfully. An ABAG environmental program, the Estuary Project is a federal-state-local partnership working to restore water quality and manage the natural resources of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary while maintaining the region's economic vitality.

Approved in 1993 by the Governor and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, the CCMP advocated for and advanced the public acquisition and restoration of close to 67,000 acres of wetlands, including acquisition of 16,000 acres of South Bay salt ponds. The scope and scale of both tidal wetland and riparian restoration have increased. The San Francisco Estuary Institute's Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality has evolved from a program that tracked status and trends of pollutants in the Estuary to one that increases scientific understanding of the Estuary and its watersheds and aids decision-makers in resource management. Since there has been considerable progress in scientific knowledge about aquatic resources, water quality, sediment dynamics and other natural resource issues in the Estuary, the 2007 CCMP strives to build on this important information.



Wetlands Heron

Photo: Clipart.com

The 2007 CCMP identifies new concerns — climate change is now widely recognized as a significant threat to ecosystem health and public safety. Anticipated sea level rise from global warming may result in saltwater intrusion into the Delta, changes in timing and flows on rivers entering the Delta, flooding, and damage to restored wetlands and marshes. These impacts may degrade drinking water quality and aquatic resources and wildlife, including endangered species.

The Estuary Project convened six workgroups over an 18-month period with input from 80 representatives from federal and state agencies, local governments, environmental groups, non-profits, private businesses, and academia. They revised 70 of the 1993 CCMP actions and wrote over 60 new actions. At its August 3, 2007 meeting the CCMP Implementation Committee will review and vote final approval of the updated plan.

For more information, visit the Estuary Project's website, at <http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/> or contact Paula Trigueros, at 510-622-2499.



### Save the Date!

**October 16, 17 and 18, 2007**

**Scottish Rite Center  
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland**

*The San Francisco Estuary Project announces*

#### **The 8th Biennial State of the Estuary Conference 2007**

The State of the Estuary Conference provides a biennial assessment of the ecological health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. This conference will bring you the latest information about the estuary's changing watersheds, impacts from major stressors, recovery programs for species and habitats, plus take a look at emerging issues. The late afternoon poster session receptions offer an opportunity to talk informally with those involved in current research and restoration activities.

The conference is sponsored by the San Francisco Estuary Project, Association of Bay Area Governments, CalFed Science Program, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, San Francisco Estuary Institute, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and many federal, state and local agencies, organizations and businesses.

Visit our website at:  
<http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/soe/>

Call for Poster Abstracts will be posted on the web site in March 2007.  
Registration brochure will be mailed in August 2007

For additional information, please contact the San Francisco Estuary Project at 510-622-2398.

**Call for submission of Poster abstracts: <http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/soe/index.html>**

**Deadline: July 20, 2007**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### JULY 2007

**July 19**

**Legislation & Governmental**

**Organization** 3:30 pm  
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

**Finance & Personnel**

**Committee** 5:00 pm  
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

**ABAG Executive Board** 7:00 pm  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

**July 20**

**ABAG / BAAQMD / MTC Joint  
Policy Committee** 10:00 am  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

**July 27**

**Regional Airport Planning  
Committee** 9:30 am  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

**July 27**

**ABAG Golf Tournament**

*To Benefit the San Francisco  
Bay Trail and the Tranter-Leong  
Management Internship  
Program* 11:00 am  
Metropolitan Golf Links, Oakland

### AUGUST 2007

**August 1**

**Regional Planning  
Committee (RPC)** 1:00 pm  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

**August 9**

**Bay Trail Steering  
Committee** 1:30 pm  
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

**August 15**

**ABAG POWER Executive  
Committee** 12 Noon  
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B



### Safety and Hazardous Materials Education Available online and in the classroom

ABAG's Online Hazmat School, a program of the ABAG Training Center, provides online hazardous waste, hazardous materials and safety training to fully comply with OSHA and DOT requirements. An authorized CEU (Continuing Education Units) provider, the Training Center has served over 28,740 students and attendees since 1979.

**For current courses offered, visit the ABAG Hazmat Training website, at [www.abag.ca.gov/hazmatschool.com](http://www.abag.ca.gov/hazmatschool.com) or contact Sharon McCreadie at 510/464-7964.**

## Notable Numbers

**9%**

Of household income is spent by households with good transit access, compared to 19% for the average household. (nationally)

**124,190**

Hours were spent by Bay Area residents stuck in traffic in 2004 – an increase of 181% from hours spent in traffic in 1995.

**50%**

Of green house gas emissions that contribute to climate change in the Bay Area are from transportation, a higher proportion than the state or the country.

**65**

Of the region's 101 cities and 9 counties have inclusionary ordinances, which require that a certain percentage of units be affordable to lower-income households in market-rate developments.

**\$932 million**

In conduit bonds have been issued for 74 affordable housing projects by ABAG Finance Authority's housing finance program — helping to preserve or construct more than 9,700 apartment units.

**Source: ABAG 2007 Housing Report: A Place to Call Home – Housing in the San Francisco Bay Area**

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